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Hebburn Urban District Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1953.



HEBBURN-ON-TYNE :

Printed by SMITH BROS. (Hebburn & Jarrow), Ltd.,  
Lyon Street.

1954.









Hebburn Urban District Council.

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J. A. W. REID, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (Glasgow).

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# HEBBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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1953—1954.

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Coun. Mrs. M. Ford.

Coun. W. Bradley.



## **PREFACE.**

**To the Minister of Health and**

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hebburn Urban District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953. The Report is drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

In January, 1952, representations were made to the Minister of Health under Section 112 of the Local Government Act, 1933, that the Borough of Jarrow and the Urban Districts of Hebburn and Felling should be United for the purpose of appointing a Medical Officer of Health.

The Jarrow, Hebburn and Felling United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order, 1952, came into operation on the 1st September, 1952, and I took up my duties on the 1st April, 1953.

For the previous 2 years Dr. J. N. Swainston, a Local Practitioner, acted as part-time Medical Officer to the Urban District.

The period of this Report covers the last three months of his tenure of office, and I desire to thank him for his help and co-operation when I succeeded him.

The following are the main features of the vital statistics for the Urban District in 1953.

The population rose by 340 to 23,440; the natural increase, excess of births over deaths, was 194.

There was a rise in the birth rate from 18.9 per 1,000 live births last year to 19.02. The still birth rate of 40.8 per 1,000 total births was slightly higher than in 1952.

The Infant Mortality Rate rose slightly to 38.1 per thousand live births, but this figure is well below the average figure of 60.7 for the decade 1941-1951.

The general death rate of 10.7 per thousand of the population was lower than the figure for the whole country. No deaths occurred from maternal causes or childhood infections.

Infectious disease notifications numbered about half of those of last year. The principal reason for this decline was a smaller number of cases of measles in 1953. Tuberculosis case finding methods detected 60 cases, which gives an incidence rate of 2.6 per thousand of the population. The death rate for this disease was 0.25 per thousand of the population.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking my Chairman, Members of the Committees, the Staff of the Health Department, and my fellow officials for the assistance I have received from them.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. W. REID,

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A.

### Statistics of the Area.

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#### A. General Statistics.

- Area of District in acres—1,563
- Estimated Resident Population—23,440.
- Number of inhabited houses—7,014.
- Number of Council houses—2,108.
- Estimated number of substandard houses—500.
- House Density (persons per house)—3.3.
- House Density (houses per acre)—4.4.
- Rateable Value, 1st April, 1954—£114,292.
- Sum represented by penny rate—£401.

#### B. PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL.

##### 1. Description of the Area.

The Urban District of Hebburn is roughly rectangular in shape. Its West and North boundaries are formed by the bend of the River Tyne. In the East, Hebburn and Jarrow have a common boundary. The Southern limit of the Urban District is contiguous with Boldon Urban District.

The Newcastle-South Shields Electric Railway sweeps across the District parallel to the course of the River Tyne enclosing a good part of the bad housing of the Town, the Shipbuilding and repair yards, and a large Electric Gear and other works. Other Industries in the area include Engineering, Chemical, and Paint Works. There is a large Coke Works in the Southern part of the Urban District.

##### 2. Employment.

I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information about employment, unemployment, and rehabilitation.

The figures given below are estimates for the main types of employment, and are total numbers for Jarrow and Hebburn.

Industry.	Males Aged 15 and Over.	Females Aged 15 and Over.	TOTAL.
Electrical Engineering ...	5030	1578	6608
Shipbuilding & repairing ...	5368	236	5604
Constructional and General Engineering ... ..	2077	342	2419
Light Electrical Engineer- ing ... ..	861	738	1599
Iron & Steel Smelting ...	1164	116	1280
Catering & Preparation of Food & Drink ... ..	239	982	1221
National, Local Govern- ment, Public Services & Professions ... ..	903	641	1544
Building & Civil Engineer- ing ... ..	1014	19	1033
Wholesale & Retail Distri- bution ... ..	574	803	1377
Transport and Repair of Vehicles ... ..	570	103	673
Chemical and Paint ...	412	197	609

### 3. Unemployment.

The monthly numbers of Men, Women and boys and girls out of work in Hebburn and Jarrow for the first five months of the year was around 1,100.

During the three summer months the figure dropped to about 900. In the last quarter of the year the monthly numbers rose till they were about 1,250 persons unemployed in December, 1953.

### 4. Disabled and Handicapped Persons.

The following persons in Hebburn and Jarrow are registered as disabled within the meaning of the Disablement Persons (Employment) Act, 1944:—

Type.	Men.	Women.	TOTAL.
Surgical ... ..	412	38	450
Medical ... ..	488	57	545
Psychiatric ... ..	40	7	47
Others ... ..	180	25	205

During 1953 six men and 3 women went through courses of Industrial Rehabilitation, and seven men were trained in new occupations at Government Training Centres.

## 5. SICKNESS MORBIDITY.

The following table gives the number of new claims for sickness benefit for Hebburn and Jarrow during the year:—

January	...	885
February	...	1368
March	...	1006
April	...	556
May	...	575
June	...	645
July	...	536
August	...	443
September	...	841
October	...	741
November	...	774
December	...	655

## C. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:	M.	F.	Total.
Total .....	244	202	446
Legitimate .....	235	197	432
Illegitimate .....	9	5	14
Birth Rate .....		19.02	
Comparability Factor .....		0.97	
Adjusted Birth Rate .....		18.4	

Still Births:			
Total .....	9	10	19
Legitimate .....	8	10	18
Illegitimate .....	1	—	1
Rate per thousand total live and still births .....		40.8	
Rate per thousand estimated resident population .....		0.81	

Deaths:			
All Causes .....	147	105	252
Death Rate .....		10.7	
Comparability Factor .....		1.24	
Standard Death Rate .....		13.2	

<b>Deaths of Infants under one year of age:</b>	M.	F.	Total.
Total .....	11	6	17
Legitimate .....	10	4	14
Illegitimate .....	1	2	3

**Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:**

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	38.1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	32.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births .....	21.4

<b>Neonatal Death Rate</b> .....	24.4
----------------------------------	------

**Infant Mortality.**

The chief cause of death of infants under 1 year of age was prematurity. It accounted for one third of the deaths. Congenital deformities and infection each were responsible for 22% of the total deaths.

**Principal Causes of Death.**

	M.	F.	% of total Deaths.
Heart Disease (all types) .....	29	34	28.9
Respiratory Disease .....	31	12	17.1
Cancer (all types) .....	25	13	15.1
Vascular disease of the Nervous System	16	12	11.1



## CAUSES OF DEATH IN HEBBURN 1953.

	Males	Females	Total	% of Total Deaths
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	5	1	6	2.4
Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection ...	1	—	1	0.39
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	7	—	7	2.7
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	7	3	10	3.9
Malignant neoplasm, breast...	—	4	4	1.5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus...	—	1	1	0.39
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	11	5	16	6.6
Leukæmia, aleukæmia ...	—	—	—	—
Diabetes ...	—	1	1	0.39
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	19	12	31	13.8
Coronary disease, angina ...	17	14	31	13.8
Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	1	5	1.9
Other heart disease ...	9	13	22	8.7
Other circulatory disease ...	9	6	15	5.9
Influenza ...	5	2	7	2.7
Pneumonia ...	10	5	15	5.9
Bronchitis ...	16	5	21	8.3
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1	2	0.7
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum ...	1	1	2	0.7
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea ...	2	—	2	0.7
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	2	4	1.5
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	2	1	3	1.1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	14	23	37	14.6
Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	1	1	0.39
All other accidents ...	3	2	5	1.9
Suicide ...	2	1	3	—
Homicide & operations of war ...	—	—	—	—
All causes ...	147	105	252	

**Vital Statistics of Hebburn for Previous Years.**

Year.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1906	23,336	34.8	16.0	136
1916	23,060	30.2	15.6	104
1926	26,190	26.6	11.8	97
1936	22,939	18.7	13.3	90.7
1937	22,700	16.9	12.7	67.9
1938	22,950	19.0	11.7	69.0
1939	23,490	17.6	12.0	48.3
1940	21,770	20.4	14.3	45.3
1941	22,200	18.0	15.5	128.4
1942	21,950	18.7	13.1	80
1943	21,760	20.7	13.7	64
1944	22,290	22.1	13.8	56
1945	22,250	19.3	11.5	48
1946	22,780	22.0	12.8	67.6
1947	22,750	22.1	12.3	65.6
1948	22,990	20.0	10.8	32.4
1949	23,050	21.08	10.6	34.9
1950	22,990	19.1	11.5	40.1
1951	23,140	19.2	11.7	51.5
1952	23,100	18.9	10.9	32.04
1953	23,440	19.02	10.7	38.1

**Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1953.**

**England and Wales, London, 160 Great Towns, 160 Smaller Towns and Hebburn U.D.**

(Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns).

				England and Wales	160 County Boroughs & Great Towns (Including London)	160 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census	London Administrative County	Hebburn U.D.
<b>Births.</b>				<b>Rates per 1,000 Home Population.</b>				
Live	...	...	...	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	19.02
Still	...	...	{	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38	0.8
				22.4(a)	24.8(a)	21.4(a)	21.0(a)	40.8(a)
<b>Deaths.</b>								
All causes	...	...	...	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	10.7
Typhoid and paratyphoid Fevers				...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.25
Influenza	...	...	...	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.29
Smallpox	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (inc. Polioencephalitis)				...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.64
<b>Notifications (corrected).</b>								
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	1.02
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	6.27
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.21
Smallpox	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	2.4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	1.70
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis).								
Paralytic	...	...	...	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	—
Non-paralytic	...	...	...	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.08
Puerperal fever & pyrexia...	...	...	...	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	18.61(a)	6.4
<b>Deaths.</b>				<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births.</b>				
All causes under 1 year of age				...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age...	...	...	...	26.8 (b)	30.8	24.3	24.8	38.1
	...	...	...	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	—

(a) Per 1,000 Total (live and still Births).

(b) Per 1,000 Related Live Births.

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

---

#### A. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

##### 1. Staff of Health Department.

##### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND AREA MEDICAL OFFICER

J. A. W. Reid, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is restricted from Private Practice and is a Full-time Officer employed by the Joint-Committee which consists of representatives of the Councils of the three County Districts.

One fifth of the Medical Officer's time is devoted to Durham County Council as Area Medical Officer for No. 2 Area Health Sub-Committee which comprises the Borough of Jarrow and the Urban Districts of Hebburn and Felling.

##### SANITARY INSPECTOR

W. S. Bruce, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

The Sanitary Inspector carries out some of the duties of Housing Officer as well as his Sanitary Work.

The Cleansing Department is separate from the Public Health Department under the Cleansing Superintendent.

##### ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

P. Milne, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

##### SHORTHAND-TYPIST

Miss J. M. Gibson.



## 2. LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Public Health Laboratory at Newcastle under Dr. Norton carries out Bacteriological Examinations. The following specimens were submitted for examination during the year:—

Specimen.	Result.		Total.
	Pos.	Neg.	
Throat Swabs .....	—	7	7
Faeces .....	4	—	4
Sputum .....	5	219	224

## 3. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

### Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons in Need of Care and Attention.

Five men and 2 women were visited during the year by the Medical Officer. Three cases were admitted to Hospital, and the remainder were given help in their homes.

In the case of one person action was necessary under this Act, but unfortunately the patient died before admission to Hospital could be arranged.

### Section 50—Burial or Cremation of Dead.

Two male persons died during the year who had no known relatives, and burial had to be effected by the Council.

## 4. REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

The Cleansing Superintendent has kindly supplied the following information:—

### REFUSE COLLECTION.

Number of houses and premises from which refuse is collected .....	7,539
--	-------

One Dennis Paxit Refuse Collector, with carrying capacity of 6 tons, and Two Dennis Refuse Collectors each with carrying capacity of 3 tons, are engaged on this work.

Method of Refuse Disposal is by 100% Controlled tipping.

House Refuse is collected once weekly, and Trade Refuse on an average of three collections per week.

The tipping site is suitably distant from the residential area and the length of haul is approximately one mile.

**STREET CLEANSING.**

Mileage of Streets Cleansed .....	34.02 miles.
Frequency of Cleansing (a) Daily .....	1.4
(b) Three times weekly.	1.29
(c) Twice weekly .....	2.65
(d) Once weekly .....	28.68
Number of street gullies in the District .....	2,500
Average gully cleansings per annum .....	7
One Dennis Mechanical Gully Emptier is engaged on this work.	

**SALVAGE COLLECTION.**

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper .....	107	5	1		772	14	3
Kitchen Waste .....	14	18	3	14	55	11	10
Textiles .....		1			1	9	9
Rubber tyres and tubes ....		15	3		2	13	3
Totals .....	123	0	3	14	832	9	1

**Collection and Disposal of Refuse during the Year Ending  
31st December, 1953.**

House and Trade Refuse (excluding salvage) .....	7,766 tons.
Street Sweepings and Gully Sludge .....	525 tons.
Total Refuse disposed of at the tip .....	8,291 tons.
Total salvage collected and disposed of .....	123 tons.
Total .....	8,414

**5 RODENT CONTROL.**

To carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949, a trained employee of the Cleansing Department is engaged part-time in dealing with infestations, laying baits, etc., under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector.

One full treatment of the Council's sewers, refuse tip and depot was carried out and a further one commenced at the end of the year.

Thirty eight complaints of infestation of rats were notified during the year and 138 visits paid by inspectors in connection therewith.

There were 37 minor infestations of rats as follows :—

Dwelling Houses, etc. ....	30
Business Premises .....	Nil.
Local Authority .....	7

## 6. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The decrease in the number of houses found to be bug infested continued during the year. It was necessary to disinfect three verminous houses, each being occupied by elderly persons.

Insecticide is issued free of cost to householders. The in-going tenants of vacant premises are encouraged to spray the house after stripping old wall paper.

All vacant Council houses are treated prior to occupation by the new tenant.

---

## B. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for details of the Personal Health Services which are provided by Durham County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, within the Urban District.

The following Clinics are conducted weekly in the Clinic, Argyle Street, Hebburn.

### CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

(Section 22).

#### Ante-Natal.

Sessions: Tuesday and Friday Afternoons.

Wednesday All Day.

The following figures show the number of expectant mothers who attended the Clinic, and the number of visits which these mothers paid to the Clinic.

Number of Mothers .....	381
Attendances .....	417

#### Post-Natal.

Session: Wednesday All Day.

Thirty five Mothers attended the Clinic on one or more occasions.

The total number of attendances during the year was 55.



**Child Welfare.**

Sessions : Tuesdays and Fridays All Day.

The following table shows the number of infants and toddlers who attended the Clinic and the number of attendances of these children throughout the year.

No. of Children.			Attendances.		
Under 1.	1-2 yrs.	3-5 yrs.	Under 1.	1-2 yrs.	3-5 yrs.
351	113	140	609	40	90

**Artificial Light Clinic.**

Session : Tuesday 9-30 a.m.—11 a.m.

Fridays 1-30 p.m.—3-30 p.m.

Two hundred and twenty six mothers and children attended the clinic during the year.

The total number of attendances during the year was 570.

**MIDWIFERY.**

(Section 23).

There are 4 County Midwives in Hebburn. No midwives practice privately in the area.

During the year they attended 248 confinements.

240 live births and 8 still births were notified.

54.5% of expectant mothers had their babies at home and 45.5% in hospital.

**HEALTH VISITING.**

(Section 24).

Three health visitors serve the Urban District. The following domiciliary visits were paid during 1953 :—

Maternity and Child Welfare .....	5,140
Tuberculosis .....	903
Mental Deficiency .....	196
Schools .....	362
Child Health .....	41
<hr/>	
Total ...	6,642
<hr/>	

The percentage of ineffective visits made was 15.4%.



**HOME NURSING.**

(Section 25).

Two whole-time nurses were employed during the year. They attended 341 patients, 215 being medical cases and 126 surgical cases. 341 new cases were visited in the year. The total number of visits paid to all patients was 9,317.

**VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.**

(Section 26).

The Medical Officer of Health conducts a monthly immunisation clinic. Vaccination and Immunisation are carried out by the General Practitioners in their surgeries.

The following tables give the number of children vaccinated and immunised at the clinics and by doctors in the District.

**VACCINATION****RE-VACCINATION.**

Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15 & over	Total	1-15	15 & over	Total
133	6	1	14	154	5	35	40

**Immunisation:** Session: Argyle Street Clinic, Friday 1-30 p.m.

**Primary Immunisations.****Re-inforcing injections.**

Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	4-9	10-14	Total	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
138	74	14	9	2	10	NIL	247	3	49	48	NIL	100

**AMBULANCE SERVICE.**

(Section 27).

The Urban District is served by the Hebburn Ambulance Control which is situated at 1, St. John's Avenue, Hebburn—Telephone Hebburn 32157.

The Control is manned by four clerk-telephonists maintaining a 24-hour service. No 2 Health Area is covered primarily by vehicles from the Hebburn Depot, which has an establishment of one head driver, 27 drivers and 8 ambulances. In addition vehicles

from neighbouring depots are utilised as and when necessary either to reinforce or economise in the transport of patients in the area.

**Details of work done by Hebburn Depot during the year.**

Calls.	Persons Carried.			Mileage.
	Stretcher.	Sitting.	Total.	
10,325	3,938	21,143	25,081	128,908

Total Journeys—7,796.

N.B.—The above figures do not necessarily include all cases from the area carried since vehicles from other depots are utilised when co-ordination can effect economies.

**PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE, AND AFTER-CARE.**

(Section 28).

Cases discharged from hospital and requiring after-care are **treated by home nurses** or supervised and advised by the Health Visitors. Sick room equipment such as urine bottles, bed pans, bed rests, air cushions, mattresses and rubber sheeting can be had on loan.

During the year 100 persons received equipment on loan.

**DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.**

(Section 29).

Thirty-three home helps were employed in the District during the year and they attended 88 cases. The following types of cases received service during the year :—

Old Age Pensioners	...	...	...	57
Sickness	...	...	...	12
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2
Maternity	...	...	...	17

**C. HOSPITAL SERVICES.**

The South Shields Hospital Management Committee administer the Hospitals in the Urban District on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.

There are two Hospitals in the Urban District.

Ellison Hall Hospital has 28 Surgical beds, and Outpatients clinics are conducted at the Hospital.

A 22 bedded Sanatorium takes female patients from the area of the Hospital Management Committee.

Other Hospitals outside the district which serve the area are :-

Ingham Infirmary, South Shields—Medical, Surgery and Maternity Cases.

South Shields General Hospital—Chronic Sick Cases.

Deans Hospital, South Shields—Infectious Diseases.

Walkergate Hospital—Infectious Diseases.

Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle—Children's Diseases

Children's Hospital, Gateshead—Children's Diseases.

Danesfield Hospital, Jarrow—Maternity Cases.

### CHEST CLINIC.

The Clinic is at Homer Villa, St. John's Terrace, Jarrow.

Sessions are held weekly as follows:—

Wednesday ... All Day ... Women and Girls.

Monday ... All Day ... Men and Boys.

### VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information, relating to the number of patients from the Hebburn District who were treated at the Newcastle and South Shields Clinics during 1953.

	Syphilis.		Soft Sore.		Gonorrhoea.		Non-Venereal.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Newcastle ...	2	—	1	—	3	3	24	8	30	11
South Shields ...	1	—	—	—	6	2	7	—	14	2
	3	—	1	—	9	5	31	8	44	13

**Sessions.**—General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle, 4.

Male and Female—

Mondays to Fridays—10 a.m.—12 noon. 3 p.m.—7 p.m.

Saturday—11 a.m.—12 noon. 4-30 p.m.—6-30 p.m.

### South Shields Clinic, Stanhope Road.

**Males**—Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10 a.m.—12-30.

Tuesdays & Fridays 10 a.m.—12-30. 5-30—7-30 p.m.

**Females**—Mondays 5-30—17 p.m.

Wednesdays 2-30—4-30 p.m.

Saturdays 10-30—1 p.m.

### **MASS X-RAY.**

No. 2 Mass Radiography Unit of the Newcastle Regional Board makes frequent visits to South Tyneside.

The following table gives details of the work done at the last visit of the Unit to the area.

I am indebted to the Secretary of the Unit for the following Statistics.

Persons.				Mass Miniature Films.	Referred to Clinic.
General Public	...	...	...	1,027	20
Doctors Patients	...	...	...	194	12
Industry	...	...	...	1,774	29
Ante-natal	...	...	...	108	1
School Children	...	...	...	931	11
Others	...	...	...	11	1
TOTAL				4,045	74

### **BLOOD TRANSFUSION.**

The Regional Blood Transfusion centre is based at Newcastle.

Regular blood donation sessions are held in suitable premises in the Region.

### **D EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**

Seven general practitioners serve the Urban District.



**SECTION C.****Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

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**WATER SUPPLY.**

Water is supplied to the district by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The water is an upland supply from the Northumberland moors. The principal reservoir is at Catcleugh. Chlorination is carried out prior to distribution to Tyneside.

A piped water supply is available to all premises in the area, but in a considerable number of the older dwelling houses the supply is from a stand pipe in the yard and shared by several tenants.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

All sewage is discharged into the River Tyne without treatment. No major stoppages or defects occurred during the year.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

There are 6,955 water closets in the area and all premises are now on the water carriage system.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

There are only two small watercourses in the Hebburn Area, both of these have been regularly inspected.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.**

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

**To the Medical Officer of Health.**

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during 1953.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. S. BRUCE,

M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

The following is a summary of complaints and visits of inspection, etc., made during the year:—

Complaints received .....	299
Nuisances .....	51
Drainage, inspection and testing .....	62
Council houses ... ..	285
Re-housing investigations .....	814
Housing disrepair .....	501
Housing disrepair, revisits .....	582
Clearance Areas .....	267
Closing Orders .....	36
Overcrowding .....	5
Food inspection .....	44
Food premises .....	144
Ice cream premises .....	15
Water supply .....	7
Licensed premises .....	15
Canteens .....	24
Milk shops and dairies .....	3
Infectious diseases .....	33
Food poisoning .....	5
Rodent control .....	138
Verminous & dirty premises & persons	40
Refuse accommodation .....	19
Sanitary accommodation .....	18
Factories .....	73
Fire escapes in Factories .....	6
Hostel .....	21
Keeping of animals, piggeries, etc. ....	31
Watercourses and streams .....	5
Schools .....	2
Flooding .....	2
Police court attendance .....	2
Atmospheric pollution .....	90
Miscellaneous visits .....	127

## **NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.**

### **Buildings.**

Roofs and spouting : overhauled and repaired .....	183
Floors and skirtings : repaired and renewed .....	52
Internal walls and ceilings. repaired and renewed .....	65

External walls: repaired and pointed .....	17
Chimneys, fireplaces and ranges: repaired and renewed	43
Doors, stairs, windows and sashcords: repaired and renewed .....	89
Scullery sinks and benches: repaired and renewed .....	14
Food stores: repaired and provided . .....	7
Dampness in walls remedied .....	65

#### **Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage.**

Waterclosets and choked drains: cleared .....	31
Watercloset basins and fittings: repaired and renewed	42
Gullies and Gratings: renewed .....	5
Wastepipes: repaired and renewed .....	15

#### **Washing Accommodation.**

Washing facilities: provided .....	3
Wash-boilers, firebars, etc.: repaired and renewed ....	11

#### **Yards and Outbuildings.**

Yard paving: repaired .....	12
Yard walls and doors: repaired and renewed .....	35
Outbuildings: repaired and re-built .....	102

#### **OTHER NUISANCES.**

Water supply pipes and fittings: repaired and renewed	18
Dustbins: renewed .....	24
Accumulation of refuse: removed .....	5

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TOTAL ... 838

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Number of Informal notices served ... ..	329
Number of Statutory notices served (Public Health Acts) ...	112

In two instances where the owners failed to comply with the Statutory Notices it was necessary to commence legal proceedings.

In one case the owner carried out the work before the summons was heard, and it was withdrawn, and in the other case the Owner applied to the County Court and obtained possession of the house, the work being subsequently carried out, and the summons withdrawn.

#### **LODGING HOUSES.**

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

The privately owned Workmen's Hostel has been frequently inspected during the year and found to be satisfactorily maintained.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

38 visits were made to cases of infectious diseases and food poisoning notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

Disinfection was carried out where necessary.

**ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.**

The two atmospheric deposit gauges continued recording during the year.

3 firms received warning letters regarding heavy smoke emissions and some improvement resulted; but conditions are not yet entirely satisfactory. The firms concerned stated that future extensions and improvement to their plant would eliminate the causes of complaint, but in the meantime regular observations continue to be made.

Apart from domestic chimneys where pollution will continue until smokeless fuels and modern appliances are more widely adopted together with gas and electricity, considerable pollution occurs from time to time, due to coal burning vessels on the River Tyne and also during lighting up period on oil burning ships. As these vessels are constantly moving, and are in fact often lying outside the district when creating the nuisance, it is practically impossible to take any action locally.



## ANALYSES OF DEPOSIT IN TWO GAUGES.

	Palmers Hebburn.		Cemetery.	
	Total for 12 Months	Monthly Average	Total for 12 Months	Monthly Average
<b>Rainfall</b> (inches) ... ..	19.39	1.61	20.98	1.75
English tons per square mile				
<b>Total Insoluble Matter</b> ...	118.03	9.83	116.97	9.75
Tar ... ..	1.89	0.15	2.05	0.17
Ash ... ..	70.28	5.85	63.03	5.25
Other Combustible Matter ... ..	45.86	3.82	51.89	4.32
<b>Total Soluble Matter</b> ...	77.87	6.47	69.95	5.83
Lime as Ca ... ..	5.12	0.42	5.55	0.46
Chlorine as Cl ... ..	12.42	1.03	12.67	1.05
Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub> ... ..	20.19	1.68	18.73	1.56
<b>Total Solids (in tons)   Collected</b> ... ..	195.90	16.32	186.92	15.57

This reposit is equivalent to about 500 tons falling on the 2.6 square miles of Hebburn in a year, or nearly 10 tons per week.

**FACTORIES ACT.****(1) Inspections.**

The following inspections of factories were made during the year :—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Notices. Written	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ....	14	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	55	54	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	8	7	—	—
Total ...	77	73	3	—

Action taken in respect of defects found in the course of inspection :—

Number of cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred.		Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) insufficient .....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective .....	2	2	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes .....	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork .....	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	3	3	—	1	—

**(2) Means of Escape in Case of Fire.**

2 amended certificates were issued during the year.

**SECTION D.****Housing in the Area.**

The first Council houses were commenced in 1919 and ready for occupation in 1921.

The following houses were built prior to the 1939 War :—

5 Roomed type .....	125
4 Roomed type .....	317
3 Roomed type .....	352
3 Roomed Flats .....	56
2 Roomed Old Peoples Bungalows ....	103
	<hr/>
	952
	<hr/>

After the 1939-45 War building began again, and by the end of 1953 the 1,000th Post-war house was completed.

The following types of houses were ready for occupation early in 1954 :—

5 Roomed houses .....	701
4 Roomed houses .....	266
Prefabricated Bungalows .....	105
2 Roomed Bungalows .....	71
Shop Flats .....	9
3 Roomed Flats .....	4
	<hr/>
TOTAL ...	1156
	<hr/>

**NEW HOUSES.**

380 houses were built with, and 8 without, State assistance and occupied during the year.

**CLEARANCE AREAS.****Hebburn (Edward Street) Clearance Order, 1952.**

This Order was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in March, 1953. By the end of the year 10 families (33 persons) had been re-housed and 10 houses demolished.

**Hebburn (Lyon Street No. 1) Clearance Order, 1953.**

This area comprises 12 dwelling houses, 1 shop and dwelling house, 1 vacant shop and 1 garage, housing 12 families (29 persons).

**Hebburn (William Street No. 2) Clearance Order, 1953.**

This area comprises 16 dwelling houses, 2 shops with houses attached, and 1 builders store, housing 13 families (64 persons).

**Hebburn (Glen Street) Clearance Order, 1953.**

This area comprises 6 dwelling houses, housing 6 families (18 persons).

The Council made Orders on the 20th October, 1953, in respect of the above 3 Areas, and a Public Inquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in January, 1954, to hear objections lodged by owners.

**INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.**

The following unfit houses were dealt with during the year :—

**15 and 17, Bewick Street and 18 Bk. William Street.**

Closing Orders were made by the Council on the 3rd March, 1953, in respect of these three dwelling houses which, together with shops below them are included in the Hebburn (William Street No. 2) Clearance Order. One tenant was housed and one tenant remained in occupation at the end of the year.

**46 Bk. Victoria Road West  
5, Tyne Street.**

Closing Orders were made by the Council on the 7th April, 1953, in respect of these two dwelling-houses, both situated over shop premises.

The tenants of both houses were re-housed.

**14, Carr Street.**

A Closing Order was made by the Council on 16th April, 1953. Both the tenant and sub-tenant who were in occupation at the end of the year, were re-housed in 1954.

**26 Bk. William Street.  
6 Bk. Lyon Street.**

Closing Orders were made by the Council on the 9th June in respect of these two first-floor flats. Both houses were later included in Clearance Orders and the tenant of 26 Bk. William Street re-housed.



### 9, Caledonian Street.

A Closing Order was made on the 21st July, 1953, in respect of this ground floor flat and the tenant re-housed.

### 1, 2, 3 and 4, Quarry Cottages.

These four houses were occupied by the Council by Compulsory Purchase of land in connection with Park extensions. Three tenants were re-housed and the remaining tenant vacated this house. The property was later demolished.

### 11, Thistle Street.

A Demolition Order was made by the Council in respect of this cottage situated in a block of 12 similar houses.

They subsequently made a Closing Order under the provisions of Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, in view of the effect which the demolition of this houses would have on adjoining houses. The tenant was re-housed by the Council.

## Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses.

Year ended 31st December, 1953.

### PART A.—CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936).

		Number of dwellinghouses demolished in the period.		Number of persons displaced.
		Unfit houses.	Other houses	
(1) Land coloured "pink"	...	10	—	33
(2) Land coloured "grey"	...	—	Nil	Nil

**PART B.—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE  
AREAS.**

	Number of	
	Houses.	Persons displaced.
<b>Demolition and Closing Orders.</b>		
<b>(1) Housing Act, 1936.</b>		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11.	4	12
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force ... ..	Nil	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)...	19	49
<b>(2) Housing Act, 1949.</b>		
(a) Closing Orders made under Sec. 3 (1)..	Nil	Nil
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Sec. 3 (2) ... ..	Nil	Nil
<b>(a) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.</b>		
Closing Orders made under Sec. 10 (1) ...	1	4
		Number of Houses.
<b>Repairs.</b>		
<b>Informal Action.</b>		
(4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts ... ..		217
<b>Action under Statutory Powers.</b>		
<b>(5) Public Health Acts.</b>		
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—		
(a) by owners ... ..		112
(b) by local authority in default of owners ...		Nil
<b>(6) Housing Act, 1936.</b>		
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Section 9, 10, 11 and 16)—		
(a) by owners ... ..		Nil
(b) by local authority in default of owners ...		Nil

**SECTION E.****Inspection and Supervision of Food and Food Premises.**

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**MILK SUPPLY.**

At the end of the year there were 86 registered distributors, namely, 66 for the sale of sterilised milk, 17 for pasteurised milk, 2 for Tuberculin Tested Milk and 1 for Accredited Milk.

All milk now sold in the district is bottled.

There are no registered dairies in the district.

**ICE CREAM.**

During the year 3 premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream under the provisions of Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

There are 41 premises registered in the district, 3 for manufacture and sale and 38 for retail sale only.

**MEAT.**

All slaughtering is centralised at Newcastle under Ministry of Food control.

**FOOD PREMISES.**

152 inspections of registered food premises were made during the year, and any contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act or the Council's Byelaws were immediately brought to the attention of the proprietors. Whenever necessary, advice is given at the time of inspection.

In 23 instances, written notices were served for contraventions of the Act or Byelaws and Regulations.

Unsatisfactory conditions found during inspections included the display of cooked meats and other contaminable foods on counters, etc., without any protection, unsatisfactory refuse storage, keeping of animals in food premises, dirty and untidy premises, fly and cockroach infestations, domestic clothes washing in food premises and unsatisfactory washing-up and storage facilities in canteens. In all cases, the matters received or were receiving attention at the end of the year.



The number and type of food premises in the district are as follows :—

TYPE OF BUSINESS.	No. of premises registered under Section 14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938.		Other Premises.	TOTAL.
	(a) Ice Cream.	(b) Preserved &c. Food.		
Factory Canteens ... ..	—	15	—	15
Cafes & restaurants ... ..	1	5	—	5
Ice cream manufacturers ... ..	3	—	—	3
Hotels & public houses ... ..	—	2	10	12
Licensed Clubs ... ..	—	—	8	8
School kitchen ... ..	—	1	—	1
Butchers ... ..	1	13	5	18
Pork Butchers ... ..	—	—	—	4
Bakers & confectioners ... ..	2	4	8	10
Fish mongers and fryers ... ..	—	13	3	16
Grocers ... ..	—	—	22	22
Greengrocers ... ..	2	—	11	13
General dealers (including 5 beer shops) ... ..	31	—	45	76
Social Service Centre ... ..	1	—	—	1
	41	53	112	204

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Under the auspices of the Council a Clean Food Guild was inaugurated in 1949, and this existed for over 2 years.

Practical experience has shown however, that this type of organisation was not successful, and it is found that inspection and talks in the premises visited are the best method of educating food handlers. This was carried out whenever necessary during the year.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

A person was summoned for selling ice-cream from a vehicle without taking reasonable steps to protect the food from contamination as required by the Council's Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The summons was dismissed by the magistrates and an appeal against their decision was made to the Quarter Sessions. Acting upon Counsel's advice, this appeal was withdrawn and costs awarded to the respondent.



**UN SOUND FOOD.**

The following foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption during the year :—

<b>Meat.</b>	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Number.
Beef (Home killed) .....		1	9	
Beef (imported) .....	1	0	8	
Liver .....			2	
Pigs Heads .....			5	
<b>Canned and Bottled Foods.</b>				
Beef loaf .....			3	
Beef, corned .....			8	
Date pudding .....			1	
Fish .....			2	
Fruit .....		2	8	
Ham, cooked .....		2	15	
Jam .....			12	
Meat .....			21	
Milk .....				11 tins.
Mutton .....			1	
Pork .....			20	
Stewed Steak .....			21	
Sauce .....				1 jar.
Soups .....			3	
Syrup .....			1	
Veal, jellied .....			12	
Vegetables .....		1	26	
<b>Provisions.</b>				
Bacon .....			5	
Butter .....			13	
Cereals .....				1 pkt.
Cocoa .....			1	
<hr/>				
Total .....	4	1	1	
<hr/>				

All of the above food was destroyed at the Council's refuse tip.

**FOOD ANALYSIS.**

Return of Samples submitted for Analysis from the Urban District of Hebburn by Durham County Council, during the year ending 31st December, 1953.

No. of Sample.	Article.	Result of Analysis.
2	Tea ... ..	Genuine.
3	Barley ... ..	do.
1	Battercrisp Mixture ... ..	do.

1	Black Pudding	...	...	...	Genuine.
2	Butter ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Cake Flour ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Cascara Sagrada	...	...	...	do.
2	Cheese ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Chicken, Minced	...	...	...	do.
1	Coffee Essence	...	...	...	do.
1	Cooking Fat ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Cornflour ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Custard Powder	...	...	...	do.
1	Dates ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Epsom Salts ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Figs, Syrup of	...	...	...	do.
1	Iodine, Tincture of	...	...	...	do.
6	Jam ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Jelly crystals ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Laxative Tablets	...	...	...	do.
2	Lentils ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Lime Juice Cordial	...	...	...	do.
1	Margarine ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Meat, Potted & Tinned	...	...	...	do.
13	Milk ...	...	...	...	do.
2	Milk, Full Cream Sw. Cond.	...	...	...	do.
1	Mince and Peas	...	...	...	do.
1	Mint, Dried ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Orange Curd ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Paraffin, Medicinal	...	...	...	do.
1	Peanut Butter ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Pepper, White ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Picalilli ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Quinine, Ammoniated Tincture of	...	...	...	do.
1	Rice ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Sage, Dried ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Sage and Onion Stuffing	...	...	...	do.
1	Sago ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Salt, Iodised ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Savoury Spread	...	...	...	do.
2	Semolina ...	...	...	...	do.
6	Sugar ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Sugar, Icing ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Table Jelly ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Tapioca ...	...	...	...	do.
5	Tea ...	...	...	...	do.
1	Veal, Jellied ...	...	...	...	do.
3	Vinegar, Malt	...	...	...	do.
1	Welsh Rarebit	...	...	...	do.

**SECTION F.****Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.**

---

The number of infectious diseases notified decreased from 825 last year to 371. The largest decrease was in measles. The notified new cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis remained constant, being 55 as compared with 52 last year.

Increases which occurred on the annual figures for 1953 were Whooping Cough (45), Meningococcal infection (1), Puerperal Pyrexia (3), Erysipelas (3).

Decreases occurred in the notification of the following diseases: Scarlet Fever (37), Measles (546), Pneumonia (12).

**1. Scarlet Fever.**

Twenty four cases were notified during the year. All were admitted to Hospital. There were no deaths from the disease. The disease continues to be mild.

**2. Erysipelas.**

The number of cases notified rose from 2 in 1952 to 5 in 1953.

Most of the cases were over middle age.

**3. Puerperal Pyrexia.**

Three cases were notified during the year. The notifications in previous years were: 1952, NIL; 1951, NIL; 1950, 2.

**4. Whooping Cough.**

Whooping Cough was the most prevalent infectious disease during the year. Notifications rose from 102 in 1952, to 147 in 1953.

One case was admitted to Hospital.

**5. Measles.**

56 cases occurred in 1953. Over 83% of cases were in age groups 1—4 years.

**6. Pneumonia.**

Of the 40 cases notified 16 were admitted to Hospital. The greatest number of cases were in the 45—64 age group.

**7. Meningococcal Infection.**

One case was notified during the year.

**8. Food Poisoning.**

Two adults were notified as suffering from Food Poisoning.  
Investigations could not determine the cause of the illness.

**9. Diphtheria.**

No cases were notified during the year. A.P.T. was distributed to the medical practitioners in the Urban District.

**10. Anterior Poliomyelitis.**

No cases were notified during the year.

**11. TUBERCULOSIS.**

The following table shows the incidence and deaths of cases by age and sex within the year :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.....								
1.....			1	1				
5.....	2	1		1				
15.....	4	13						
25.....	6	3	1	1	1			
35.....	11	...			1	1		
45.....	8	1			1			
55.....	4	1						
65 and upwards	1				2			
<b>TOTAL</b>	36	19	2	3	5	1	...	...



**INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Table Showing Age incidence, Deaths, &c.**

Disease.	Number of cases notified (Corrected Figures.)										Hospital.	Deaths.
	All ages.	Under 15	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever ...	24	—	1	9	12	2	—	—	—	—	24	—
Whooping Cough ...	147	10	52	51	34	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	56	7	26	21	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	40	3	2	4	—	1	1	4	16	9	16	15
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Food Poisoning ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—







